Pass Christian Area
1699 1999
Colonization Tricentennial Committee

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS

The Tricentennial

Volume 2, Issue 1 January 11, 1999

Jubilation Gala '99

"Pass group would like to bring home the beacon" was the column headline written by Sun Herald reporter Keith Burton. No, he wasn't referring to the *Tarpon Beacon*, but the Pass Christian Lighthouse. Keith went on to state, "Although the Coast's best known lighthouse is in Biloxi, Pass Christian was home to the first one."

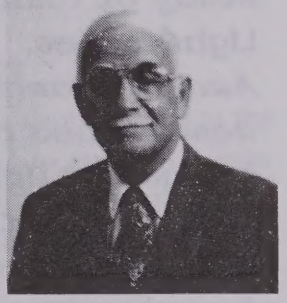
"**The Tricentennial Committee** is working to find out how much it would cost to rebuild the lighthouse and to locate a site. The city's Board of Aldermen has endorsed the project."

Since the Pass no longer has the *"Tarpon Beacon"* newspaper to communicate to its citizens, Keith's comments have gone a long way in making local residents aware of the **Tricentennial Jubilation Party** scheduled for **6:00 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 1999.** Many persons have called about the cost of admission, the Committee is simply suggesting a "Free-Will Donation," all of which goes toward defraying the cost of the once-in-a-lifetime event. Fun and exhibits will abound with the promise of a short 15-minute program.

Consider the event a casual dress cocktail party and exhibit display with plenty hors d'oeuvres, music, prizes, and a cash bar. See you at the **Espy Avenue Community Center Thursday at 6:00 p.m.** Attending members will receive a special "Membership Scroll" keepsake.

LeRoy Lizana

Educator Exemplary



As a native and life-long resident of Pass Christian, LeRoy Lizana received degrees from Perkinston Junior College and the University of Southern Mississippi where he also earned his Master of Education.

He progressed from Business Ed Instructor in 1954 to High School principal and Assistant Superintendent in the Pass Christian school system. He also served as Assistant Superintendent for the Harrison County School District to return to Pass Christian in 1972 to serve 20 years as Superintendent of Schools before retirement.

As an avid volunteer, LeRoy has served as a member and an officer in numerous professional and service organizations, including positions of past president of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce. One of his long time loves is serving as the Chair of the Service Corps of Retired Executives Association and as an active participant with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. He is also a Board Member of the Tricentennial Committee.

Among his many honors, LeRoy received the Pass Christian Outstanding Citizen Award, the Outstanding Educator Award, and he was singled out as one of the top 100 School Executives in North America.

Architectural Model

The Pass Christian Lighthouse and landscape scaled model was created and presented to the Tricentennial Committee by Buddy Diboll. Buddy set aside all of his other model and repair activities for four months in which he arduously devoted himself to the study of minutia details of Lighthouses. As a professional *Architectural Modeler*, Buddy researched the architectural designs of lighthouses along the Mexican Gulf, in particular, those of Pass Christian and Cat Island. As a result, a completed, scaled miniature architectural model of the Pass Christian Lighthouse is displayed on a 2-foot by 3-foot mounting board. Shown are the Lot and the neighboring properties, which includes the current City Hall Lot and Hiern Street at the beachshore. The time-frame depicts the period of 1835-40, when Pass Christian's lifestyle was developing into becoming a village of consequence. The ambiance is further characterized by a Keepers dwelling with outbuildings, a cistern, and cultivation.

The Donation Cost Effort was $7,500. Thank you Buddy Diboll!

Pass Christian Lighthouse History:

The Lighthouse was completed in March of 1831 and was repaired with new stucco and whitewash in 1854.

The next-door, 1850s, story-and-a-half house on the west side of the Lighthouse lot still stands and is known as the Bourne's House.

On April 25, 1860, the Inspector reported that it would be best to sell the lighthouse property and rebuild a 48 foot tower at another location with the proceeds from the sale. These plans were interrupted by the Civil War.

On January 3, 1866, thirty-two Pass Christian petitioners requested the Light be placed in order at a repair cost of $3,198.52. It was approved by the urging of the Lighthouse Engineer, who stated that, "the light is of importance to vessels going to and returning from Mobile Bay." Although no height was added, on August 15, 1866, the Light was relit, having been dark for five years.

In 1881, the Tower was once again refurbished, painted and whitewashed, but nothing was done to provide better vision by tree trimming or increasing its height. Therefore, in August 1882, the light was recommended for discontinuance. On September 9, 1882, the Secretary of the Treasury authorized termination of it and on October 1, the Light went dark.

Where did it go?

At auction, Lawrence C. Fallon of New Orleans, bid $1,225.00 for the lot, tower, buildings, and outbuildings. No information has been discovered pertaining to the dismantling of the lighthouse tower or the disposition of the bricks, however, the house dwelling was later removed during the early 1900s and re-erected near the corner of St. Louis Street and Henderson Avenue where it remained until destruction by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

City Hall - Old and New

by Dan Ellis

Former Mayor J.J. Whitman addressed the Board of Alderman in January 1970 with a proposal for a new City Hall. He stated that $69,000.00 of the cost would be derived from the U.S. Office of Emergency Planning and $30,000.00 from the insurance payment due as a result of the Camille damaged old City Hall. Preliminary designs were made by the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Alderman Jim Cerra's comments were that "it looked like a first class Chicken-Coop." As a result, local Architect John Mykolyk made revisions which were later accepted by the Board.

The new City Hall, replacing the former Hall, was designed to provide 4000 square foot of space with a Mayor's Office, separate quarters for the Clerk, Tax Collector, and Utility Department as well as a Board Room Auditorium to seat approximately 90 people. The site replaced the "old Pass High School" (which was closed in 1937) at Hiern Avenue and Scenic Drive (prior to the school it was the site of the Pass Christian lighthouse demolished in 1882.) The Ground Breaking ceremonies were performed in August of 1970 with the acceptance of a Building Fund projected at $128,000.00.

The Corner Stone from the Old City Hall, which indicated that building's construction in 1926, was placed on the front lawn of the new City Hall. By February of 1971 the new building was completed and the offices were occupied by the City Departments and the Mayor. However, the building was not accepted as finished, as duly noted by Alderman Arthur Hyatt, "The roof leaks!" Alderman Clay Rick remarked that the Plaque spelling was incorrect, and Alderman Jim Cerra complained that he wouldn't vote on any matter until the lights were corrected.

On May 2, 1971 the new City Hall was dedicated to the memory of the victims of Hurricane Camille. Representative Jim Simpson, Sr. introduced Lt. Governor Charles Sullivan after the Flag Raising ceremony performed by Boy Scouts James Stanboro, Roger Fitzgerald, Raymond Fitzgerald, Malcolm Jones and Jimmy Rafferty. Approximately 700 Pass residents attended with other guests including former Lt. Governor Bidwell Adam whose father E.J. Adam, Sr. was a former Mayor of the Pass.

The old two-story City Hall was located at the foot of Market and Scenic Drive centering on Market Avenue - blocking the view to the Gulf. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were called in to demolish it in October of 1970.

Wilson at the Pass

President Woodrow Wilson arrived at the Pass on Christmas Day 1912 to spend a winter vacation. Mayor A.P. Saucier and his family met the President at the train. It had rained for several days and water was yet standing in the streets.

"Some rain you had, Mr. Mayor," remarked Wilson.

"Aw, we jes cleaned up the place for you, Mr. President," quipped Mayor Saucier.

The next day the President was treated to a heaping dish of his favorite ice cream at Wittmann's Store located at the intersection of Davis and Second Street prior to buying a mullet net from the corner of Market and Beach Avenue where the *Morning Market* is now located.

New Library Hours

Mon - Thur8:00am - 6:00pm
Fridays8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturdays9:00am - 5:00pm

Editorial Department
Dan Ellis
Dayton Robinson
If you would like to write a heritage column -- write it and send it in to POB 354 with your by-line.

St. Paul Carnival Association

The Carnival Association is kicking off its 1999 Carnival season with *"Mississippi Discovered"* as its theme.

- Trish McDonald won the logo design contest with a beautiful depiction of d'Iberville on the Mississippi beaches with a gorgeous sunrise in the background. This logo is featured on the Tricentennial mementos in the form of doubloons, throw cups, and necklaces, which are available at Raintree Center with proceeds benefiting St. Paul Catholic School.
- Two competing teams for King and Queen have arranged numerous parties and fund raising activities to benefit St. Paul School. Team One candidates are Wes Jones and Robin Cuevas. Team Two candidates are Edward "Inky" Fournier and Helen Bentz. Call St. Paul School at 452-7359 for the list of events.
- A Home Coming for all alumnae of St. Joseph and St. Paul is scheduled for the weekend prior to Mardi Gras. A highlight will be a children's parade on Friday, February 12 in downtown Pass Christian, followed by an Alumnae Welcoming Party in St. Paul's Gym.
- Mardi Gras Ball -- Saturday, February 14, 1999.
- Mardi Gras Parade -- Sunday, February 15, 1999.

Mardi Gras Art Contest

"What does 300 years mean to me? is the theme as promoted by the Mardi Gras Float Committee of the Tricentennial Committee. All students in the greater area of Pass Christian have been solicited to participate with their art renditions. The top three winners' art works will be displayed on the Tricentennial Committee Parade Float for all the world to see. The First Place winning student also will receive a $25 Savings Bond.

Mardi Gras
"Tricentennial Doubloons"

Margie Hamilton and Dana Dedeaux have been hard at work heading the Tricentennial Committee Mardi Gras Float, School Art Contest, and producing a special "D'Iberville Doubloon" which also has the Tricentennial Logo on the flip-side. This special bronze doubloon sells for $5.00 and is a limited issue of only 250 coins with its unique number sequence stamped onto the rim of the coin medallion. Alluminum facsimile copies are also available at .50 cents are in bulk rate.

Anyone wishing to ride the "Tricentennial Float" need only pay $95 for this once in a lifetime float-ride by calling Margie at 452-2435.

Mustering In

With the announcement of Civil War preparedness, Coastal inhabitants were not very interested in joining the Confederate Army, nor in taking journey to foreign battle fields. They simply wanted to defend their own family and property. Orders from Major-Gen. David Twiggs or Gen. Dahlgren to muster troops was at first futile.

Pass citizens in general were opposed to conscription. When realizing the need for a Coast Defense, the locals assumed that they would remain at home as a Home Guard. Companies were finally mustered into service on Oct 5, 1861, when the Dahlgren Guards Company was formed of approximately 70 men.

Brig-Gen. Dahlgren complained in a letter dated October 19, 1861, about conditions, "There is no protection to the inhabitants - no Gun Boats - no fortifications - no combination nor system made of defense. The evacuation of Ship Island has proved the truth of my opinion and the residue are in the same condition. Forty men have deserted from one company. . . "

Ashbel Green was Superintendent of the Mississippi Military Institute in the Pass which was started in 1852. Green and many of his cadets were mustered into service -- Green serving as a Captain in the Dahlgren Guards.

There were many political and governmental conflicts, such as Gen. Dahlgren serving as an official Mississippi State general, but the Third Regiment was under the official control of the Confederate admini-

(Mustering In -- Continued)

stration. Military pay was irregularly dispensed and there was great confusion as to who were the responsible payees; local, state, or Confederate.

Pass Road was a winding, narrow, sandy roadbed running East-West along the first high, solid ground off the coastline. It connected the towns of Biloxi, Handsboro and Pass Christian. The twisting roadway, shaded by ancient oak, pine and magnolia, had been maintained through the years by filling in time-worn low and wet spots with logs, straw, sawdust, sand and oyster shells. This was the main land artery between Pass Christian and Biloxi and when the water-route was blockaded, it was the only one over which Confederate troops could pass unchallenged.

Pass Road was busier than it ever had been as homesick soldiers slipped back from campsites to visit their families while ground troops were shuffled back and forth.

Eventually, the unequipped and unprepared Coast Defense units were ordered to Kentucky and soon afterward 2000 Union troops were disembarked on Ship Island accompanied by the dreaded steamer, the *Constitution.*

Regardless, there were the impetuous who were ready to fight Yankees anytime or anywhere; while the preponderance of Coast troops were only interested in defending their own. By the end of 1861, the Mississippi Sound was effectively blockaded by Union warships and foraging troops made landings along the Coast in search of food and supplies.

Governor Petus of Mississippi, by not providing aggressive leadership, caused the soldiers to become even more disgruntled by the half-hearted coastal defense by the government. This resulted in many of the tired soldiers seeking return to their families. The war had lost its romance, and morale was at a low ebb.

Many of the Pass citizens evacuated to New Orleans and other parts when the departing troops left them defenseless. In the October 7, 1861 state elections, both Hancock and Harrison county citizens voted heavily against Mississippi Governor Petus.

Pass Christian Garden Club

The PC Garden Club is approaching its 50th year. As formed in 1950, the club's stated purpose is to promote futher interest in community beautification, conservation of natural resures, and horticulture and gardening education of its membership, which is just shy of 50 members.

Many residents are not aware that since 1995, the club has been honoring one of its own for their outstanding contributions during the year. The award is sponsored by L&B Enterprises, Inc.

Past Presidents of the Club,
some of whom served more than one term:

Mrs. Dorothy D. Dennis
Mrs. Samuel P. Schwing
Mrs. Doyle O. Hickey
Mrs. C.D. Taylor, Sr.
Mrs. Joseph A. Airey, Jr.
Mrs. C. Ben Maginnis
Mrs. Herman E. DeVries
Mrs. George E. Morse
Mrs. George W. Byrne
Mrs. W.L. Holcomb
Mrs. Ross B. Guest
Mrs. John C. Hans
Mrs. Alger Lancaster
Mrs. C. Roland Martin
Mrs. Leland E. Little
Mrs. Grover C. Brandt
Mrs. Edward Dinkelspiel
Mrs. Howard F. Haines
Mrs. R. Parnell McKay
Mrs. R. Kitts Wallace
Mrs. Pope Schoenberger
Mrs. Robert B. Campbell
Mrs. Avery Katz
Mrs. Daniel Sentilles
Mrs. John G. Drevar
Mrs. Clayton Chapman
Mrs. Robert Doe
Mrs. Warren L. Schultz
Mrs. McInnis L. Ward
Mrs. George Tate
Mrs. N. Lee Stanbro

Passé Pass Christian

from "Along the Coast"

"Being on the seashore, there is naturally a great demand for fish and oysters at the Pass and this demand, is supplied by fishermen who make trips out of the banks and fishing rounds every day, where they draw their seines. Prominent among these dealers here is B. Bojianish whose place is located at the end of a long wharf which juts out into the water from Front Street, partly in the rear of Hanson's Drug Store. Here the visitor or prospective purchaser may see great fish cages sunk deep in the water in which the stock of finny swimmers are kept alive, and consequently fresh until such time as they are sold, when they are dipped out with a net and strung on long tough grass which grows plentiful on the marshes. Mr. Bojianish is one of the best and most reliable fisherman and oyster dealer on the coast and has always a supply of red fish, red snappers, trout, spanish mackerel, pompano, crabs, turtle, oyster, etc., on hand, which he sells at very moderate prices. He has been in business here since 1883. Fresh supplies were sent out to Montgomery, Birmingham, Memphis, Mobile and New Orleans.

J. Edward Hanson, besides operating the Drug Store on Front Street was an avid fisherman and would frequently walkout the back of his store along the wharf to Bojianish to catch a few fish. He would also organize fishing parties for his fishing buddies and visitors.

A Beacon for All

One story that Billy Bourdin always likes to tell when rummaging through his newspaper collection is the following.

"In 1958, Parnell McKay, editor of *The Pass Christian Tarpon-Beacon,* discussed many problems faced as a weekly editor of a small-town newspaper. He stated that his two major problems were that of the 4000 Pass residents, most of whom were related, so he had to watch very carefully what he wrote about anybody.

"His second problem was that 50% of the Pass residents probably knew more than he did about publishing a paper, because they either worked on one, or owned a paper at one time or another."

1999?

Which version is correct for transcribing Roman numerals to the current year?
Long Cut = MDCCCCLXXXXVIIII
Short Cut = MCMXCIX
Energized = MIM

The **long version** is the actual Romanizing manner by which Julius Caesar would have written his checks!

IT'S A BLESSIN' SHAME!

Baxter Jones, after taking charge of one of the Chamber of Commerce committees, the *Blessing of the Fleet.* He explained how he re-initiated the ceremony of tossing a wreath into the waters in bereavement for all souls lost at sea. As a retired Navy man, this is a not only a natural custom, but an essential Naval courtesy.

However, not all the local citizens accepted this ceremony. One resident went so far as to report the incident to the EPA in protest.

Congratulations are extended to Baxter for taking on the helm of the Chamber of Commerce -- our new President!

Pass Christian Rotary Club
Former Recipients of the Outstanding Citizen of the Year
Congratulations to Paul Bode -- chosen for 1998.

Mrs. Esther Purchner
H.W. Griffon
Dr. C.D. Taylor
Rev. W.S. Allen
Owen P. Farrell
E.A. Lang, Sr.
The Sisters of Mercy
Miss E. Jane Lang
Rev. Lucius L. Cowan
Cary E. Spence
Mrs. Julia Mc Donald Everett
M.A. Stephens
Thomas B. McDonald
Mrs. Belle Taylor
Volunteer Fire Dept.
W. Dayton Robinson
R. Parnell McKay
Mrs. Edna F. Szymanski
Thomas F. Bourdin
E. Davis McCutchon
Richard A. Purchner, Jr.
Howard F. Haines
Russell T. Ringer
George T. Watson
Mrs. Mary Abbley
Otis B. Trepagnier
LeRoy Lizana
Frank Wittmann III
Mary Joan Fitzpatrick
Gerald W. Andresen
Donald Doyle
Coral Trepagnier
Frederick S. Kohl
Velma C. Guest
Mary Davids
Adele Bielenberg
Estella Drevar
Eaton Lang
Roland Martin
C. Randall Jones
Alice Russell
Mary Catherine Ward
Charles C. Lynch
Paul Bode

The New Orleans Daily Delta
August 20, 1852

"Now, as we write, there are at least ten thousand of our people sojourning on this coast. Bay of St. Louis, Pass Christian, and Biloxi are fast becoming the principal towns of Mississippi. With their advantages, we have no doubt that in a few years, when we have railroads and greater facilities for traveling, that instead of one-half of our population flying Northward on the approach of summer, the habit will be reversed -- our own people, except when called away by business, will remain here, and thousands of strangers will crowd here in order to enjoy our sea-breeze and beautiful sea-coast."

The New Orleans Picayune newspaper was originally founded in 1837, by Amos Kendall. Selling it at the cheapest monetary denominator, which was the Spanish *medio real,* worth about 6□ cents in U.S. currency. However, the French Creoles nick-named the coin a "picayune", which was a French Piedmontese coin, the *picaillon.*

The Harbor
by Jessie Heitzmann

Skies of blue, water green,
Ships at anchor ride.
Peace abounds here, I find,
Ever as the changing tide.

'Tis here I come on sunny days
To watch the birds in flight,
To see the ships as they sail,
Then watch them till they're out of sight.

'Tis here I come on stormy days,
To watch the waves roll in,
To see the lightning streak the sky
And feel the wind upon my skin.

'Tis here I come to reflect
Whenever I am blue,
To think of pleasant times gone by
And memories shared right here with you.

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS
The Tricentennial
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An Invitation

Pass Christian Area
1699 1999
Colonization Tricentennial
Committee

You are cordially invited to attend the
Tricentennial Jubilation Gala
Thursday, January 14, 1999 at 6:00 pm
Espy Avenue Community Center
Hors d'oeuvres, Music, Prizes, and Cash Bar
Casual Dress -- Free-will Donation